THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) As on 1.4.2007, 33 tea gardens were reported to be closed, of these 30 tea gardens have tea factories which were also closed. The depressed price situation since mid 1999 coupled with other factors like high cost of production, low prices of tea, ownership disputes etc., have affected the viability of tea gardens resulting in the closure of these gardens and their factories.

(d) The Government has recently announced a rehabilitation package for closed tea gardens. Persistent efforts of both Central and State Governments have resulted in opening of ten closed tea gardens recently. However, for opening of tea factories, adequate green leaf inflow is required. After prolonged closure the plantations require some time and care to come to full production. The factories would also require repairing and overhauling. Once the closed tea gardens open and their normal activities are resumed, the factories would start working soon after.

Sanction of land to the multinational companies

2295. DR. VUAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of land sanctioned by Government to the multinational companies in the outskirts of Bangalore;

(b) the extent of land acquired by Government for development of Information Technology and Bio-Technology;

(c) the extent of land sanctioned to the various companies (company-wise details be furnished); and

(d) whether compensation has been paid to the farmers who have lost their land after land acquisition (details be furnished)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Ban on import of Indian traditional medicines

2296. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some countries like Australia, US and UK have banned Indian traditional medicines due to higher toxic metal content;

(b) if so. Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government have made any regulatory monitoring system to test the metallic content mandatory for traditional drugs meant for exports;

(d) whether those medicines which are banned by these countries are presently in domestic use; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No country has banned Indian Traditional Medicines due to higher toxic metal contents. However, some countries like Australia, USA and UK have issued warnings to the public about the presence of heavy metals above permissible limits.

(b) and (c) Government has taken the following steps to monitor the metallic content in aditional drugs meant tor export:-

(i) Government has introduced mandatory testing for heavy metals in all purely herbal, Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani medicines to be exported which is effective from 1.1.2006 onwards. This has been done to meet the regulatory requirements of the importing countries.

(ii) The state Drug Licensing Authorities have been directed to ensure full compliance by all ASU drug manufacturers of the provision of Rule 161 (1) and (2) relating to displaying on the label of the container or in a leaflet to be inserted in the package of an ASU drugs, the true list of all the ingredients used in the manufacture of the preparation together with the quantity of each of the ingredients incorporated therein.

(iii) Under Centrally Sponsored Scheme 29, State Drug Testing Laboratories have been strengthened and 26 Private Drug Testing Laboratories and other NABL accredited laboratories have been approved for testing of ASU drugs in the country.

(iv) A research project has been sanctioned to various laboratories to Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) under the Golden Triangle Partnership Project to study the physiochemical characteristics of 8 most widely used Bhasmas and to carry out their toxicity studies.

(v) Good manufacturing practices have been made mandatory for all Ayurveds, Siddha and Unani drug manufacturing units in the country.

(d) and (e) The manufacturers of the medicines against who health alerts have been issued by regulatory agencies of other countries have been asked to get their medicines tested for heavy metals and in case they are herbo metallic drugs to get their safety/toxicity tested. As per Ayurveda principles herbo metallic compounds following the detoxification process outlined in classical tests are safe.

Status of IIUS from Gujarat

2297. SHRI KESHUBHAI S. PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3689 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th May, 2007 and state the present position of pending proposals from the State Government of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRLU. POUCY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): Fifteen proposals were received from the State of